

16 December 1986

New N.S.C. Chief Is Said to Plan A Near-Total Overhaul of Council

By **BERNARD WEINRAUB**

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15 — The new director of the National Security Council, Frank C. Carlucci, plans a virtually complete overhaul of the council, and has already selected key aides on the Soviet Union and Latin America, Administration officials said today.

One Administration official said that Mr. Carlucci, who was named less than two weeks ago to replace Vice Adm. John M. Poindexter, plans a "clean deck of people" at the council, and that he was "disturbed" about the way the council had been operating.

Mr. Carlucci's plans to revamp the National Security Council come amid revelations that council officials apparently played a central role in what the White House has described as the diversion of millions of dollars to Nicaraguan rebels from the profit of clandestine Iran arms deals. Admiral Poindexter resigned as assistant to the President for national security affairs as the arrangements were revealed, and a key aide, Lieut. Col. Oliver L. North, was dismissed.

Council Role in Policy

Officials said Mr. Carlucci, in his preliminary findings, had decided that the National Security Council staff was far too involved in shaping foreign policy — as opposed to coordinating it — and that the caliber of the staff appointed by the recent council heads, Robert C. McFarlane and Admiral Poindexter, "dissatisfied" him, according to one associate.

The official said most council staff members would probably return to the agencies from which they originally came, such as the State Department, Pentagon and Central Intelligence Agency.

Officials said Mr. Carlucci planned to appoint Fritz W. Ermarth, a strategic arms analyst who worked in the National Security Council during the Carter Administration, as his chief Soviet specialist. Mr. Ermarth's previous jobs included one in which he worked on the office of strategic evaluation at the Central Intelligence Agency in the 1970's.

Mr. Carlucci also plans to name Jose S. Sorzano, a former United States deputy representative at the United Nations, to serve as the council's chief Latin American specialist.

'Entirely New Approach'

An official close to Mr. Carlucci said the new director seeks "an entirely new approach, much closer to what they've had in the past." The official said Mr. Carlucci viewed the council as one whose mandate was foreign policy coordination among various Government departments and not advocacy of certain policies.

"He feels the staff needs to be strengthened considerably and not take sides and get caught up in the quarrels between agencies," the official said, but rather work "as coordinators to produce the best possible policies."

The professional staff of the National Security Council, which was set up in 1947, serves as the foreign policy arm of the White House and was designed, essentially, to review and coordinate agency proposals to the President.

The council's role grew during the Kennedy Administration, and flourished when Henry A. Kissinger became

President Nixon's national security adviser. Under President Reagan the council has played a key role in not only coordinating but also in helping shape policy.

Officials Set to Leave

Senior council officials are expected to leave shortly, officials said. These include Alton G. Keel Jr., the council's deputy director, and Comdr. Rodney B. McDaniel, the council's executive secretary. One of Mr. Keel's deputies, Peter W. Rodman, formerly director of the State Department's Office of Policy and Planning, may remain in his job, officials said.

Mr. Carlucci is reportedly planning to name as his deputy Lieut. Gen. Colin L. Powell, a former senior military assistant to Defense Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger who is one of the highest ranking black officers in the military.

Mr. Ermarth will replace Jack F. Matlock Jr., a career diplomat, who has made efforts in the last year to be named Ambassador to Moscow. The current Ambassador, Arthur A. Hartman, has indicated that he wants to remain in Moscow.

Mr. Ermarth has spent a considerable portion of his career in the C.I.A., and worked at the Northrop Corporation heading a strategic planning group in the early 1980's. He returned to the C.I.A. in the early 1980's in a senior analytical job where he specialized in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

Views and Words

In substance, his views are not known to be very different from Mr. Matlock's, say sources who know Mr. Ermarth, although his public words are said to be far tougher.

Mr. Sorzano is expected to replace Raymond F. Burghardt, who will probably return to the State Department.

Also today, Rhett Dawson, a Washington attorney and former staff director of the Senate Armed Services Committee, was named director of the panel examining the council. The panel is headed by former Senator John G. Tower, Republican of Texas, who had served as chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Mr. Tower said a Washington lawyer, W. Clark McFadden, would be general counsel. Herbert Hetu, a former spokesman for the C.I.A., was named public affairs counselor for the review board.

Meanwhile, White House aides said that despite suggestions by some Republican legislators, President Reagan had no plans to go before Congress to address the Iran issue.

Officials also said Colonel North had prepared a chronology of the Iran arms deals at the request of Admiral Poindexter. They said the chronology, which is now in the hands of Peter J. Wallison, the White House counsel, was prepared after initial reports appeared about the arms sales to Iran, but before the Administration said profits from the arms sales had been diverted to the Nicaraguan rebels. There were no further details about the chronology.